Appln. No. 09/595,114
Supplemental Amendment dated March 19, 2004

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments, the specification of the present application has been amended to include a claim for the benefit of applicants' related U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,013 (hereinafter "the '013 Provisional Application") filed December 10, 1999. Because the present application was filed prior to November 29, 2000, the time period requirement set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) for making a domestic priority claim (i.e., within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the later-filed application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application) is not applicable to the present application (see MPEP §210.11, Section V). Even if it is assumed, for the sake of argument, that this time period requirement is applicable to the present application, the Declaration and Power of Attorney filed together with this application contains a domestic priority claim relating to the '013 Provisional Application, and the filing receipt mailed on August 8, 2000 acknowledges such a claim. In such circumstances, it is believed that this Supplemental Amendment need not be accompanied by a petition and the surcharge under 37 CFR §1.17(t) (see the last paragraph of MPEP §210.11, Section V). Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that their domestic priority claim be officially acknowledged in the next official communication.
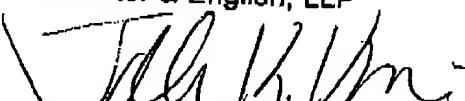
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No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submittal of this Supplemental Amendment. If, however, any such fees are due, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully Submitted,

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